IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of All Pending Claims

1. - 26. (canceled)

27. - 34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A system for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service on a data network, the instant messaging service communicating instant messages in an instant message format, the system comprising:

the wireless communications device for establishing an active state on a wireless network, the wireless communications device for initiating a log in request to the instant messaging service;

a the wireless network for ~~sending and receiving~~ communicating the log in request to a proxy server by means of a short message service (SMS) center ~~short messages in~~ ~~a short message service (SMS) format to and from the wireless communications device~~ ~~the wireless communications device communicating an active message state to the~~ ~~wireless network to indicate that the wireless communications device is present to send~~ ~~and receive the short messages;~~

~~a short message service (SMS) center connected to the wireless network for~~ ~~receiving the active message state, the SMS center for converting the instant messages~~ ~~in the instant message format to the short messages in the SMS format, and for converting~~ ~~the short messages in the SMS format to the instant messages in the instant message~~ ~~format, the SMS center for communicating the active message state to a proxy server;~~

the proxy server having a first connection to the SMS center and a second connection to ~~a~~ the data network, the proxy server for ~~logging into~~ establishing a substitute proxy presence for the wireless communications device, the proxy server for transmitting

presence information to the instant messaging service to indicate that the wireless communications device is online upon receipt of the log in request active message state, the proxy server providing a for maintaining the substitute proxy presence for the wireless communications device to indicate that the wireless communications device is online when the wireless communications device is in the active message state, and the proxy server for intercepting and storing an instant message addressed to the wireless communications device; and

      a plurality of information handling systems connected to the data network and logged into the instant messaging service for sending and receiving the instant messages.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the proxy server intercepts one instant message that is addressed to the wireless communications device, and notifies the wireless communications device wireless network through the SMS center connected to the wireless network that the one instant message addressed to the wireless communications device has been received.

37. (currently amended)　The system of claim 35 36, wherein the SMS center proxy server converts at least a portion of the intercepted one instant message to a the short message format, and sends a converted message to the wireless communications device through the wireless network via the SMS center.

38. (currently amended)　The system of claim 35 37, wherein the SMS center further proxy server converts an identifier of a the sender of the intercepted one instant message to a the short message format and sends the converted identifier of the sender to the wireless communications device. in conjunction the converted message.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The system of claim <u>37</u> ~~36~~, wherein the SMS center stores the ~~intercepted instant~~ <u>converted</u> message.

41. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the ~~SMS center~~ <u>the proxy server</u> receives a response short message from the wireless communications device that is addressed to an information handling system of the plurality of information handling systems, converts the response short message to an instant message format response message, and sends the instant message response message to the information handling system.

42. (currently amended) The system <u>of</u> claim 35, wherein the ~~SMS center~~ <u>the proxy server</u> receives an indication that the wireless communications device is in an inactive ~~message~~ state, ~~and wherein the SMS center communicates the inactive message state to the proxy server,~~ and wherein the proxy server removes the <u>substitute</u> proxy presence upon receipt of the indication that the wireless communications device in the inactive ~~message~~ state.

43. (currently amended) A method for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service connected to a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

     communicating an active message state status from the wireless communications device to a wireless network;

     <u>the wireless communications device sending a request to log into the instant messaging service, wherein the request is received at a proxy server through a communication path comprising the wireless network connected to a short messaging service (SMS) center connected to the proxy server;</u>

     ~~transmitting the active message state status from the wireless network to a short message service (SMS) center;~~

     ~~the SMS center communicating to a proxy server that the wireless communications devices is in the active message state status; and~~

the proxy server establishing <u>a stand-in on-line</u> presence <u>for the wireless communications device</u> ~~information~~ with the instant messaging service upon receipt of the <u>request from the wireless communications device;</u>

<u>the proxy server maintaining the stand-in on-line presence as long as the wireless communications device remains in the active message state status; and</u> ~~SMS center communication that the wireless communications device is in the active message state status~~.

<u>the proxy server intercepting and storing at least one instant message intended for the wireless communications device.</u>

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

~~the proxy server intercepting at least one instant message intended for the wireless communications device;~~

~~sending the at least one instant message to the SMS center;~~

the ~~SMS center~~ <u>proxy server</u> converting at least a portion of the at least one instant message to short message service (SMS) format;

<u>sending the converted message to the SMS center;</u>

the SMS center sending the ~~SMS formatted~~ <u>converted</u> message to the wireless network; and

the wireless network delivering the ~~SMS formatted~~ <u>converted</u> message to the wireless communications device.

45. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of:

the proxy server notifying the wireless communications device through the SMS center and the wireless network that the at least one instant message has been received.

46. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of notifying comprises the steps of:

the proxy server converting at least a portion of the at least one instant message from instant message format to short message service (SMS) format; and

sending the converted message to the wireless communications device through

the SMS center.

47. (new) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

the proxy server converting an identifier of the sender of the at least one instant message from the instant message format to SMS format; and

sending the converted identifier to the wireless communications device.

48. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

the wireless communications device sending a response message transmitted in short message service format to the proxy server; and

the proxy server converting the response message to instant message format and transmitting the converted response message over the data network.

49. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

the proxy server receiving a delivery status of the converted message from the wireless network;

the proxy server utilizing the delivery status to determine that the converted message is undeliverable to the wireless communications device; and

the proxy server establishing an offline presence with the instant messaging service to indicate that the wireless communications device is offline.